

**Illinois P-20 Council Meeting  
July 22, 2015 10:00am-4:00pm**

DeVry University, 3300 N Campbell Ave, Chicago, IL  
Phone: Dial in 888 494 4032 Access Code 4218176480#

**Meeting Minutes**

Chicago: Karen Hunter Anderson, Lizanne DeStefano, Larry Frank (for Audrey Soglin), Molly Gordon, Dan Harris, Theresa Hawley, Kurt Hilgendorf, Janet Holt, Erika Hunt, Madelyn James (for Gaylord Gieseke), Rob Karpinski (for Fr. Holtschneider), Debra Kasperski, Amber Kirchhoff, Joshua Klugman, Dea Meyes, Melissa Mitchell, Heidi Mueller (for Candice Jones), Sharon Thomas Parrott, Laurel Lent Prussing, Beth Purvis, John Rico, Julio Rodriguez (for Jim Schultz), Penny Sebring, Brynn Seibert (for Dave Lowitzki), Kathy Shaevel (for Jane Russell), Robin Steans, Ayesha Tillman Jose Torres, Eric Zarnikow,

Phone: Jim Applegate, Brian Chapman (for Randy Dunn), Roger Eddy, Rep. Linda Chapa Lavia (for Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie), Sylvia Jenkins, Deb Strauss, Sylvia Wetzel,

**I. Welcome and Introduction**

Council Chair Beth Purvis began the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking DeVry University for hosting us as well as providing a tour for those P-20 members interested in learning about the Advantage Academy. Purvis also took this moment to recognize and thank Dr. Lizanne DeStefano since this will be her last council meeting before she becomes a faculty member at Georgia Tech in August.

**II. Introduction to DeVry**

Council Chair Purvis then introduced Council member Sharon Thomas Parrott. Parrott then took the time to introduce the council to DeVry University which was started 10 years ago under the suggestion of Arnie Duncan with the goal to see students who might not otherwise see college in their future with an opportunity for a dual degree program. The first class of students that they looked for had a GPA of 2.5 and a 90% attendance rate. It was found with these students, and the ones following, that once they found out that they can “do college”, they wanted to continue. 74% of the students who graduated from the Advantage Academy go on to college/university. Parrott also asked that the P-20 members encouraged their college programs to start similar type of programs since many think they are overly expensive when they really are not. For DeVry, 80% of the funding was done by the university and 20% of the funding (like teachers, lunch, etc.) was done by Chicago Public Schools.

Council member Jim Applegate went on to explain that this was a great model that he hoped would be replicated in a speed up/catch up effort not only in Chicago but throughout the state.

**III. The First Look at the Five Essentials in Illinois Schools – Penny Bender Sebring**

Dr. Penny Bender Sebring from the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research along with her staff, senior research analysts Molly Gordon and Josh Klugman presented their findings about

the Five Essentials, an evidence based system designed to drive improvement in schools nationwide by measuring changes in organization, predicting school success, and providing individualized results.

Molly Gordon began by stating the two main areas of inquiry: 1.) How do strengths and weaknesses in the 5 essentials vary? 2.) Are the essential reports related to student outcomes? Gordon went through the background of 5 essentials. In 2011, Illinois passed a law that mandated schools participated in a survey of learning conditions. Chicago Public Schools were analyzed from the rest of the state because of different context and because Chicago has more K-8 schools than the rest of the state that has K-5. It was found that the school enrollment size matters for the essential supports and urban and suburban schools have slightly higher percentage of having 3 or more strengths but also that urban schools have a higher percentage of having 3 or more weaknesses.

Josh Klugman went on to explain that differences in student outcomes do not mean that the essential supports are the cause but that there is a correlation between the two. Benchmarks were put in place based on association between socioeconomic disadvantage and school outcomes since socioeconomic disadvantage is a key predictor of school performance. If there is at least 1/3 of an association between socioeconomic advantage and student outcomes then there's a substantial association. Essential supports with the strongest relationships with student outcomes are supportive environment and involved families, except for CPS where it is supportive environment and ambitious instruction. Overall, this was a preliminary study that showed that schools in rural and socioeconomic disadvantaged areas tend to be weak on essential supports which is concerning because schools in Chicago with weak supports are less likely to improve over time. Hopefully, this study will help motivate policy makers.

#### **IV. Committee Updates**

##### **a. College and Career Readiness Committee**

Council member Jon Furr and John Rico introduced their CPS intern Hugo. They then went over a summary of a meeting they had July 13<sup>th</sup> where they have been focused on the development of legislation to develop work readiness. In 2013, CCR convened varying state agency leaders and addressed 5 topics within a bill that look at new Illinois high school graduation requirements and also plans for early college credit/speed-up to help with a student's career pathway. The focus for the next year for the College and Career Readiness Committee are learning standards, especially on the career side, and making sure we assess career readiness.

##### **b. Data, Research, and Evaluation Committee**

Council members Dea Meyer and Robin Steans explain that there is an ongoing monitoring of the Longitudinal Data System as required by statute as well as ongoing monitoring of the State Report Card. Meyer and Steans also explained that they are exploring information generated by the 5 Essentials survey and along with putting together a series of meetings with Jim Pellegrino, they are hoping to look at and assess the implications such as next steps. There are concerns about the way that data is communicated to parents and the overall need to make clear that different assessments have different uses.

c. Family, Youth, and Community Engagement

Council member Deb Strauss recounts how at the last P20 meeting the committee talked about attending the Illinois Collaborative that lead to a conversation about collaboration across the state. They are currently creating a list of criteria about what an effective collaborate looks like. Strauss explained that the committee will be sitting in a Data subgroup that will bring in the parent/community voice behind the PARCC survey as well as the committee's desire to create a youth group or agency since youth have yet to have a high school or college voice in their committee. If anyone could be a touch point either through email or phone to help get that started it would be greatly appreciated.

d. Finance & Governance Committee

Council member Laurel Lunt Prussing wants senators Andy Manar and Jason Barickman to come in and present at the next meeting. Council chair Beth Purvis gave they okay.

e. Teacher & Leadership Effective Committee

Council member Erika Hunt explained that the committee is working on putting together a statement on where they are aligned with P20 council goals as well as using existing data of teachers and academic leaders' qualification, demographics, and dashboard measures for recruitment and preparation. Council chair Purvis took this moment to also mention that the University of Chicago Urban Lab has also offered to help agencies with analyzing their data, free of charge.

Hunt continued on to explain the work that the committee has done this year including continued support for diverse learning exchange; convening a meeting to discuss state recommendations for federal Excellent Educators for All Initiative; and aligning Teacher Leadership Work statewide and nationally. Hunt also proposed FY16 activities and goals including studying 18 new teacher leadership endorsement programs and revisiting the Teacher and Leader dashboard as a toll for the state for monitoring teacher and principal preparation. Their projected budget for FY16 is \$80,000 to pay for services of Sam Rielly for one-year.

f. Implementation Review Committee

Amber Kirchhoff and Ayesha Tillman explain that the IRC was charged with giving surveys to find out what the challenges and success of various state education reforms and what might improve on the success and identify any challenges. Big takeaways from the survey was making sure that data from assessments such as PARCC are given back to not only teachers and school administrators but also to parents but overall it was too early to say whether assessments like PARCC are successful in terms of college and career readiness.

## **V. Agency Update Discussion**

### **a. Illinois Department of Employment Security**

Sharon Thomas Parrott was just appointed to the Illinois Department of Employment Services and has already sat in on the first meeting. Jeff Mays, director of the IDES asked her to join in order to create connection between IDES and education generally. Mays is offering that if anyone has things that would be good connections made, that he is open to that. If anyone has specific questions, email Council Chair Purvis or Director Mays.

### **b. Illinois Student Assistance Commission**

ISAC Executive Director Eric Zarnikow gave an update on FY16 moving forward. He explained that everything ISAC does is focused on 60x2025. Zarnikow also discussed the MAPP program, which will be implemented this fall to help dislocated workers as well as an advising group to improve outcomes of MAPP recipients. Zarnikow also explained that ISAC is concerned about improving their website so that it can be more student friendly as well as figuring out a way to secure any confidential data about their students.

### **c. Illinois Community College Board**

ICCB Executive Director Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson stated that on July 15<sup>th</sup> they kicked off their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of community colleges where a lot of people heard about workforce education strategic plan. After finishing 11 forums they are very close to issuing a report that will summarize their findings. ICCB is also working with IBHE to develop some rules and guidelines for higher learning and education based instruction. ICCB also has plans to partner up with DCEO, NGA, and AT&T.

### **d. Illinois Board of Higher Education**

IBHE Executive Director Dr. Jim Applegate explained that the IBHE will be discussing threshold scores for college readiness in August and that conversations have been happening with Higher Ed for Higher Standards to devise a strategy for the state. Data has shown that even the state's higher performing students are sliding behind faster than high performing students in other countries. IBHE will also be looking at current and projected work force needs and to make sure that those needs are met. In August, there will be an IBHE meeting on college affordability with the National Governors' Association involved.

### **e. Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice**

Deputy Director of Programs, Heidi Mueller, standing in for Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Director Candice Jones, shared that IDJJ is working on several initiatives and that they are having more and more of their youth graduate from high school and obtaining GEDs. However, a problem that IDJJ is facing is that they don't have any meaningful post-secondary offerings though over the next year they hope to develop post-secondary options, career pathways, and opportunities. Another issue they are trying to deal with is intersecting mental health support into their school systems.

f. Illinois Math and Science Academy

President Jose Torres of IMSA explained that entrepreneurship has become integral to IMSA and that they have been developing tools through faculty and residential programs. IMSA hopes to increase STEM persistence and also of students' awareness through school programs.

g. Illinois State Board of Education

Stephanie Donovan, who spoke on the behalf of Superintendent Tony, said that ISBE implemented a new assessment called PARCC which they hope to have those results in by the fall. ISBE also in collaboration with the Illinois Federation of Teachers honored 33 educators who had the highest performances in their fields that ranged from mathematics to physical education.

h. Illinois Department of Human Services

Dan Harris from IDHS shared that there are a number of programs that support education and that about 8,000 families are served per year by early childhood visits. The University of Chicago Urban Labs is using DHS data to target individuals of most need in our state.

i. Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

Theresa Hawley, the director of the OECD, shared that for the first time in 6 years there is an increase in the Early Childhood Block grant which has allowed the restoration of birth to 3 as well as Preschool For All to FY12 levels. Hawley also explained that Head Start has just publically put out new rules with aims to move to becoming a full day program. OECD is now trying to figure out what that means for our state and how that reverberates throughout the rest of the state's programs.

j. Illinois Education Research Council

Dr. Janet Holt explained that the IERC just released the Innovation (EPPI) report and that a two year study founded by the Joyce Foundation is about to come out. There will be a symposium in October with two key notes with reports coming from a longitudinal study focused around student debt and financial aid.

**VI. P20 Council Administration**

Council chair Beth Purvis thanked Lizanne DeStefano, who will be moving, for her work as the P-20 council coordinator and introduced the new council coordinator Janet Holt from the Illinois Education Research Council. Purvis also thanked Dunn fellow Molly Daily who for the last year has been staffing for the P-20 council and is also leaving due to the end of her fellowship. UCPIP fellow Zori Paul will be taking over her duties as the P-20 Council staffer.

Council Chair Purvis went on to talk about the P-20 council budget which is currently very much influx. Purvis and Holt will work to give people what they need in order to have the most efficient and effective budget for FY16.

Purvis also proposed a change to the P-20 council's structure and frequency of meeting. She and Holt will send out a survey to council member to get an idea of how long and frequent the following P-20 meetings will be.

**VII. Meeting Adjourn**